



SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE NO. 6
DATE 2-16-07
SB 432

220 S. 27th Street, Suite A, Billings, MT 59101 Tel: 406.248.1154

February 16, 2007

Good afternoon, Chairman Lind and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

My name is Helen Waller. My husband, Gordy and I farm in McCone County. I am here representing myself, and the Northern Plains Resource Council, and I am speaking in support of Senate Bill 432.

Rural communities throughout Montana are struggling to survive and are searching for economic activity that will offer employment opportunity, and allow our rural people to prosper. The production of biodiesel holds this promise, as is being successfully demonstrated in neighboring states. When coupled with **locally owned and operated** biodiesel facilities, the result is rural prosperity.

The driving force behind this concept is creation of a market for biodiesel., which is the purpose of SB432. Creating the market will hasten the construction of biodiesel plants in Montana, which in turn will provide a market for oilseed crops that can be grown here. Montana's experiment station scientists have done exceptional work over the years to improve various oilseed crops. Raising oilseed crops profitably offers farmers more planting options.

We have used a biodiesel blend on our farm, and it works well, but it had to be trucked in from North Dakota. I look forward to using fuel on our farm that has been produced in Montana.

Locally raised oilseed crops used for feedstock in locally owned and operated biodiesel facilities to be consumed by local folks is an example of energy self-reliance at its best! I urge you to support Senate Bill 432. Thank you.